

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/046,447

Examiner

Hung T. Vy

Applicant(s)

POPPINK ET AL.

Art Unit

2163

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 04/11/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-10,12,18-29,33-54,56-60,62-66,68,74-77,80-101,110,111,113-123 and 126-130.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

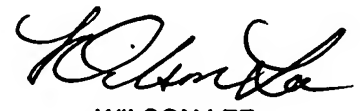
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 08/02/2007
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 8/15/2007
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


WILSON LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

1. As of entry of the Pre-Brief Appeal request filed on 04/11/2007 and The Pre-Brief Appeal Conference decision on 05/24/2007, claims 1-10, 12-66 and 68-131 are pending in this application. A conference had been held. The rejection is withdrawn.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and /or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.3.12. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The following claim has been amended upon agreement by applicant during a telephone conversation with Mr. Greg T. Sueoka on August 15, 2007.

The following is the new set of claims will be replaced for the original claims and amendment claims filed on 09/25/2006.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for unconscious data retrieval, comprising:

extracting at least one query key from a primary document;

responsive to a connection with at least one data source being available, pre-fetching at least one query result by:

querying the at least one data source with the at least one query key; and

receiving at least one query result from at least one data source;

evaluating the received at least one query result; [[and]]

accessing the primary document; and

displaying at least one received query result;

wherein extracting, querying, receiving, and evaluating are performed
automated asynchronously with respect to user interaction with the primary
document; and

wherein displaying the at least one received query result is performed without
regard to whether a connection with a data source is available and in response
to accessing the primary document.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to extracting:
receiving the primary document;
and wherein extracting, querying, receiving, and evaluating are performed in response to
receiving the primary document.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to
displaying at least one received query result:
displaying the primary document;
and wherein displaying at least one received query result is performed in response to
displaying the primary document.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the primary document comprises an
electronic communication.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the primary document comprises an e-
mail message.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising, prior to extracting:
receiving the electronic communication;
and wherein extracting, querying, receiving, and evaluating are performed in response to
receiving the electronic communication.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein receiving the electronic communication
comprises receiving the electronic communication at an e-mail server.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein receiving the electronic communication
comprises receiving the electronic communication at a user's computer.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein receiving the electronic
communication comprises retrieving the electronic communication from an e-mail server to a
user's computer.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
storing the evaluated at least one query result;

and wherein displaying at least one received query result comprises:
retrieving the stored at least one query result; and
displaying the retrieved at least one query result.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein querying at least one data source comprises:

transmitting a query over a network.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein querying at least one data source comprises transmitting an e-mail message containing a query to the at least one data source.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein querying at least one data source comprises transmitting across a firewall an e-mail message containing a query to the at least one data source.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein querying at least one data source comprises transmitting an XML-encoded e-mail message containing a query to the at least one data source.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving at least one query result from at least one data source comprises receiving an e-mail message containing at least one query result from at least one data source.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving at least one query result from at least one data source comprises receiving an XML-encoded e-mail message containing at least one query result from at least one data source.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one data source comprises:

at least one information appliance.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein at least one of the information appliances comprises one selected from the group consisting of:

a visitor kiosk;

a meeting recorder;

a presentation recorder;

a whiteboard capture device;

a communication device; and

a document management device.

26. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein evaluating the received at least one query result comprises estimating the relevance of the query result with respect to the electronic communication.

27. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein evaluating the received at least one query result comprises determining whether the query result has previously been displayed.

28. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein evaluating the received at least one query result comprises determining whether the query result is sufficiently relevant with respect to a predetermined relevancy threshold;

and wherein displaying at least one received query result comprises displaying a query result responsive to the determination indicating that the query result is sufficiently relevant.

29. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying at least one received query result comprises determining displaying at least one received query result in a sequence prioritized according to estimated relevance.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying at least one received query result comprises displaying the query result in the context of a currently active software application.

33. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying at least one received query result comprises displaying the query result in a sidebar pane adjacent to a currently active on-screen window.

34. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying at least one received query result comprises displaying the query result in an on-screen window concurrently with display of a currently active on-screen window.

35. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying at least one received query result comprises displaying the query result in an on-screen dialog box.

36. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the displayed query result comprises a hyperlink to a resource containing data related to the displayed query result.

37. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one received query result comprises a plurality of query results, the method further comprising:

prioritizing the query results according to estimated relevance;

and wherein displaying at least one received query result comprises displaying a plurality of query results in order of priority.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein prioritizing the query results is performed responsive to the context of the query results.

39. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein prioritizing the query results is performed responsive to the context of the query key in the primary document.

40. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the data sources comprises a network-connected computer containing shared information.

41. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the data sources comprises a shared directory.

42. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the data sources is intermittently connected via a network.

43. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the primary document is one selected from the group consisting of:

an electronic communication;

a word processing document;

a spreadsheet document;

a task item;

a calendar item;

a file;

an image;

a sound recording;

a video recording; and

a contact record.

44. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein querying at least one data source comprises:

formulating a structured query based on the extracted at least one query key; and

transmitting the structured query to the at least one data source.

45. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein extracting at least one query key comprises applying a part-of-speech analysis to the primary document.

46. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
selecting at least one data source based on the extracted at least one query key;
and wherein querying at least one data source comprises querying the selected at least one data source.

47. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein evaluating the received at least one query result comprises applying a Bayesian belief net to determine estimated relevance of the at least one query result.

48. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying at least one received query result comprises displaying the result on a device that is intermittently connected via a network.

49. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the device comprises a portable computing device.

50. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the primary document comprises a text document.

51. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the primary document comprises a non-text document.

52. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein querying at least one data source comprises transmitting a text query.

53. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein querying at least one data source comprises transmitting a non-text query.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying at least one received query result comprises displaying the query result in a calendar display.

55. (Canceled)

56. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying at least one received query result comprises:

designating at least a portion of the primary document as a hyperlink; and

responsive to user activation of the hyperlink, displaying a query result.

57. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying at least one received query result comprises:

displaying an on-screen button; and

responsive to user activation of the button, displaying a query result.

58. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying at least one received query result comprises:

displaying a toolbar menu activation button; and

responsive to user activation of the button, displaying a query result.

59. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying at least one received query result comprises:

displaying a menu comprising at least one command; and

responsive to user selection of one of the at least one command, displaying a query result.

60. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying at least one received query result comprises:

displaying a menu activation icon;

responsive to user activation of the menu activation icon, displaying a menu comprising at least one command; and

responsive to user selection of one of the at least one command, displaying a query result.

61. (Canceled)

62. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system for unconscious data retrieval, comprising:

a receiver, for receiving a primary document;

a requester, coupled to the receiver, for, responsive to a connection with at least one data source being available, pre-fetching at least one query result by generating and transmitting to at least one data source at least one query related to the primary document;

an evaluator, for receiving at least one query result from the at least one data source and for evaluating the received at least one query result; and

a display, coupled to the evaluator, for displaying the at least one received query result without regard to whether a connection with a data source is available;

wherein the receiver, the requester, and the evaluator operate automated asynchronously with respect to user interaction with the primary document.

63. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein the primary document comprises an electronic communication.

64. (Original) The system of claim 63, wherein the primary document comprises an e-mail message.

65. (Original) The system of claim 64, wherein the receiver comprises an e-mail server.

66. (Original) The system of claim 64, wherein the receiver comprises an e-mail program running on a user's computer.

67. (Canceled)

68. (Original) The system of claim 62, further comprising:
a storage device, coupled to the evaluator, for storing the evaluated at least one query result;
and wherein the display displays at least one received query result retrieved from the storage device.

69. (Canceled)

70. (Canceled)

71. (Canceled)

72. (Canceled)

73. (Canceled)

74. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 62, wherein the requester transmits the query over a network.

75. (Previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the requester transmits an e-mail message containing the query to the at least one data source.

76. (Previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the requester transmits across a firewall an e-mail message containing the query to the at least one data source.

77. (Previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the evaluator receives an e-mail message containing at least one query result from at least one data source.

78. (Canceled)

79. (Canceled)

80. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein the evaluator estimates the relevance of the query result with respect to the primary document.

81. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein the evaluator determines whether the query result is sufficiently relevant with respect to a predetermined relevancy threshold;

and wherein the display displays a query result responsive to the determination indicating that the query result is sufficiently relevant.

82. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein the display displays at least one received query result in a sequence prioritized according to estimated relevance.

83. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein the display displays the query result in the context of a currently active software application.

84. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein the display comprises a sidebar pane adjacent to a currently active on-screen window.

85. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein the display comprises an on-screen window shown concurrently with a currently active on-screen window.

86. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein the display comprises an on-screen dialog box.

87. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein at least a portion of the displayed query result comprises a hyperlink to a resource containing data related to the displayed query result.

88. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein at least one of the data sources comprises a network-connected computer containing shared information.

89. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein at least one of the data sources comprises a shared directory.

90. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein at least one of the data sources is intermittently connected via a network.

91. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein the primary document is one selected from the group consisting of:

an electronic communication;

a word processing document;

a spreadsheet document;

a task item;

a calendar item;

a file;

an image;

a sound recording;

a video recording; and

a contact record.

92. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein the requester comprises:

a query formulator, for formulating a structured query based on the extracted at least one query key; and

a transmitter, coupled to the query formulator, for transmitting the structured query to the at least one data source.

93. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein the evaluator applies a Bayesian belief net to determine estimated relevance of the at least one query result.

94. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein the display comprises a portable computing device.

95. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein the primary document comprises a text document.

96. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein the primary document comprises a non-text document.

97. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein the display comprises a calendar display.

98. (Original) The system of claim 62, wherein the display comprises a user-activated toolbar menu.

99. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer-usable medium having computer-readable code embodied therein for unconscious data retrieval, comprising:

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to extract at least one query key from a primary document;

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to, responsive to a connection with at least one data source being available, pre-fetching at least one query result by:

querying at least one data source with the at least one query key; and

receiving at least one query result from at least one data source;

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to evaluate the received at least one query result; [[and]]

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to access the primary document; and

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display at least one received query result;

wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to extract, query, receive, and evaluate operate automated asynchronously with respect to user interaction with the primary document;

and wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display the at least one received query result operates without regard to whether a connection with a data source is available and in response to accessing the primary document.

100. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to extract, query, receive, and evaluate operate asynchronously with respect to user interaction with the primary document.

101. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, further comprising:
computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to store the evaluated at least one query result;

and wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display at least one received query result comprises:
computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to retrieve the stored at least one query result; and
computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display the retrieved at least one query result.

102. (Canceled).

103. (Canceled).

104. (Canceled).

105. (Canceled).

106. (Canceled).

107. (Canceled).

108. (Canceled).

109. (Canceled).

110. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to evaluate the received at least one query result comprises computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to estimate the relevance of the query result with respect to the primary document.

111. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to evaluate the received at least one query result comprises computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to determine whether the query result is sufficiently relevant with respect to a predetermined relevancy threshold;

and wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display at least one received query result comprises computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display a query result responsive to the determination indicating that the query result is sufficiently relevant.

112. (Canceled).

113. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display at least one received query

result comprises computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display the query result in the context of a currently active software application.

114. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display at least one received query result comprises computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display the query result in a sidebar pane adjacent to a currently active on-screen window.

115. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display at least one received query result comprises computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display the query result in an on-screen window concurrently with display of a currently active on-screen window.

116. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display at least one received query result comprises computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display the query result in an on-screen dialog box.

117. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein at least one of the data sources comprises a network-connected computer containing shared information.

118. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein at least one of the data sources comprises a shared directory.

119. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the primary document is one selected from the group consisting of:

an electronic communication;

a word processing document;

a spreadsheet document;

a task item;

a calendar item;

a file;

an image;

a sound recording;

a video recording; and

a contact record.

120. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to query at least one data source comprises:

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to formulate a structured query based on the extracted at least one query key; and

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to transmit the structured query to the at least one data source.

121. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to extract at least one query key comprises computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to apply a part-of-speech analysis to the primary document.

122. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to evaluate the received at least one query result comprises computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to apply a Bayesian belief net to determine estimated relevance of the at least one query result.

123. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display at least one received query result comprises computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display the result on a device that is intermittently connected via a network.

124. (Canceled).

125. (Canceled).

126. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display at least one received query result comprises:

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to designate at least a portion of the primary document as a hyperlink; and

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to, responsive to user activation of the hyperlink, display a query result.

127. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display at least one received query result comprises:

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display an on-screen button;
and

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to, responsive to user activation of the button, display a query result.

128. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display at least one received query result comprises:

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display a toolbar menu activation button; and

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to, responsive to user activation of the button, display a query result.

129. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display at least one received query result comprises:

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display a menu comprising at least one command; and

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to, responsive to user selection of one of the at least one command, display a query result.

130. (Original) The computer program product of claim 99, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display at least one received query result comprises:

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to display a menu activation icon;

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to, responsive to user activation of the menu activation icon, display a menu comprising at least one command; and

computer-readable program code configured to cause a computer to, responsive to user selection of one of the at least one command, display a query result.

131. (Canceled).

Reasons for Allowance

3. Claims 1-2, 4-10, 12, 18-29, 32-54, 56-60, 62-66, 68, 74-77, 80-101, 110-111, 113-123, and 126-130 are allowed

The following is an examiner's statement of reason for allowance:

With respect to claims 1, 62 and 99, none of the references of record teaches or suggests the claimed the claimed a computer-implement method for unconscious data retrieval, and computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for unconscious data retrieval, comprising,

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along with all the other claimed feature, extracting at least one query key from a primary document, responsive to a connection with at least one data source being available, **pre-fetching at least one query result** by querying the at least one data source with the at least one query key, and receiving at least one query result from at least one data source, evaluating the received at least one query result, accessing the primary document; and displaying at least one received query result; **wherein extracting, querying, receiving, and evaluating are performed automated asynchronously with respect to user interaction with the primary document**, and wherein **displaying the at least one received query result** is performed **without regard** to whether a connection with a data source is available and in response to accessing the primary document,

With respect to claims 2, 4-10, 12, 18-29, 32-54, 56-60, 63-66, 68, 74-77, 80-98, 100-101, 110-111, 113-123, and 126-130, claims 2, 4-10, 12, 18-29, 32-54, 56-60, 63-66, 68, 74-77, 80-98, 100-101, 110-111, 113-123, and 126-130 depend to claims 1, 62 and 99, therefore, are allowed.

Conclusion

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung VY whose telephone number is (571) 272-1954.

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The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 5:30pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DON WONG can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either private Pair or Public Pair. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private Pair only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have question on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hung T. Vy
Art Unit 2163
August 15, 2007.



WILSON LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER